Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0009] with the following rewritten paragraph:

In networks that enable setting up a path through the network, such as a label-switched path, the ACF may send packets along one or more potential paths, analyze the acknowledgment packets received in response to the packets, and select a path [[a]] based on the acknowledgment analysis. The ACF may decide that a data transfer with the second client should not be initiated if no suitable path is found. If no path is found the ACF may then repeat the analysis for some or all of the paths at a later time.

Please replace paragraph [0027] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Using telephone 212 and ACF 232 by way of example, suppose a caller at telephone 212 wants to access information on audio server 208. The caller initiates the call by picking up the handset of telephone 212. Telephone 212 indicates to ACF 232 that a call should be set up with audio server 208. ACF 232 determines whether to set up the call between telephone 212 and audio server 208 by using admission control, consistent with the principles of the invention. ACF 232 first sends one or more reflector packets to audio server 208. As each reflector packet is sent, ACF 232 may start tracking, for example, the response time it takes to receive an acknowledgment packet from audio server 208 for each reflector packet. ACF 232 may also monitor_other characteristics of the acknowledgment packets in addition to or instead of response time._Generally, an ACF may send two types of packets, referred to generally as "reflector" packets. The first type of reflector packet, called a "time delay" packet, is used primarily to determine how long it takes to receive an acknowledgment packet. An example of a time delay packet is a ping packet. The second type of reflector packet, called a "control" packet, has some purpose beyond eliciting an acknowledgment. A control packet may, for example, be used to establish a session, initiate a data transfer, set up a path, or perform some combination of these operations. Acknowledgments to control packets may be also analyzed, like the acknowledgments to time delay packets, to determine the state of network resources between two or more clients. A combination of these types of packets may also be used.

Please replace paragraph [0039] with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 3 illustrates a system for performing distributed admission control consistent with the principles of the invention. The elements and functions of system 300 may be used in any of ACFs 220-232 or network clients 202-218. In other embodiments consistent with the principles of the invention, the elements and functions may be divided between a client and its respective ACF. For purposes of explanation, system 300 will be described as being in ~~one of~~ one of ACFs 220-232. Further, the elements and functions of system 300 may be implemented entirely in software, entirely in hardware, or in a combination of hardware and software.